

**Police Headquarters**

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: October 17, 2023

Our ref: FOI 2023/992

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th October 2023 concerning the Vagrancy Act.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Team Performance Department at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You Wrote:

We would like to know the total number of people who were arrested under the Vagrancy Act 1824 during the full financial years 2022/23, 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20. We would also like to know for the age groups 16 -17 and 18- 25: the reasons for arrest and the frequency of each of the reasons.

Additionally, we would like to know the total number of people who were charged under the Vagrancy Act 1824 during the full financial years 2022/23, 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20. We would also like to know for the age groups 16 -17 and 18- 25: the subject of charges and frequency of the each of the charges.

We are requesting data for:

- Annual total: 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023
- Annual total: 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022
- Annual total: 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021
- Annual total: 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020

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Additionally, we are requesting the data to be age segmented in to the following groups:

- 16 - 17
- 18 - 25
- 26 - 35
- 36 - 45
- 46 - 55
- 56 - 65
- 66+

Response:

Arrests

2019 – 2020

Persistently beg in a public place (second or subsequent offence) – Vagrancy Act 1824

1 x 18 – 25

Vagrant – being found in or upon enclosed premises

2 x 26 – 35

1 x 56 – 65

2020 – 2021

Vagrant – being found in or upon enclosed premises

1 x 16 – 17

1 x 18 – 25

1 x 26 – 35

1 x 36 – 45

1 x 46 – 55

2021 – 2022

Vagrant – being found in or upon enclosed premises

1 x 26 – 35

2 x 36 – 45

1 x 56 – 65

2022 – 2023

Vagrant – being found in or upon enclosed premises

1 x 18 – 25

Charged

2019 – 2020

Persistently beg in a public place (second or subsequent offence) – Vagrancy Act 1824

1 x 18 – 25

2020 – 2021

Vagrant – being found in or upon enclosed premises

1 x 16 – 17

1 x 18 – 25

1 x 36 – 45

1 x 46 – 55

2021 – 2022

Vagrant – being found in or upon enclosed premises

1 x 26 – 35

2 x 36 – 45

1 x 56 – 65

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.

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Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original Fol request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane

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Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>